

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A shaped expanded graphite article comprising, at least in an outer layer portion, an oxidation-resistant coating layer,

wherein the oxidation-resistant coating layer has a thickness of 0.5 μm or more, and comprises a boron element and a phosphorus element, the content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer being 15 mass% or more and the content of the phosphorus element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer being 2 mass% or more, and

wherein the content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is greater than that of the content of the phosphorous element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer.

Claims 2-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 1, wherein the boron element contained in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is contained in at least one material selected from the group consisting of simple boron, boron carbide, boron chloride, boron fluoride, boron bromide, boron iodide, boron nitride, boron oxide, boron silicide, an organic boron compound, and a compound comprising boron and phosphorus.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 6, wherein the material that comprises the boron element has an average particle diameter of 200 μm or less.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 1, wherein the phosphorus element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is comprised in at least one material selected from the group consisting of simple phosphorus, phosphorus oxide, phosphorus carbide, phosphorus chloride, phosphorus fluoride, phosphorus bromide, phosphorus hydroxide, phosphorus nitride, phosphorus silicide, an organic phosphorous compound, and a compound comprising phosphorus and boron.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 1, wherein a shaped expanded graphite article is a sheet shape.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article having an oxidation-resistant coating layer, comprising

contacting a shaped expanded graphite article with a solution comprising a phosphorus element and a boron element, thereby forming a coating layer of said solution on a surface of said article, and then

subjecting said graphite article to a heat treatment to produce said shaped expanded graphite article comprising said oxidation-resistant coating layer comprising 2 mass% or more of said phosphorus element and 15 mass% or more of said boron element.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 10, wherein a material comprising a boron element is at least one material selected from the group consisting of simple boron, boron carbide, boron chloride, boron fluoride, boron bromide, boron iodide,

boron nitride[;], boron oxide[;], boron silicide[;], an organic boron compound[;], and a compound comprising boron and phosphorus.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 11, wherein the material comprising a boron element has an average particle diameter of 200 μm or less.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 10, wherein a material comprising a phosphorus element is at least one material selected from the group consisting of[;] simple phosphorus[;], phosphorus oxide[;], phosphorus carbide[;], phosphorus chloride[;], phosphorus fluoride[;], phosphorus bromide[;], phosphorus hydroxide[;], phosphorus nitride[;], phosphorus silicide[;], an organic phosphorous compound[;], and a compound comprising phosphorus and boron.

Claim 14 (Original): The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 10, wherein the heat treatment is performed at 200 degrees C or higher.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article having an oxidation-resistant coating layer, comprising

contacting graphite as a material with a solution comprising a phosphorus element and a boron element, thereby forming a coating layer of said solution on a surface of said graphite, said coating layer comprising 2 mass% or more of said phosphorus element and 15 mass% or more of said boron element,

subjecting said graphite to an expanding treatment, and then

shaping said graphite.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method for producing an oxidation-resistant shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 15, wherein a material comprising a boron element is at least one material selected from the group consisting of simple boron, boron carbide, boron chloride, boron fluoride, boron bromide, boron iodide, boron nitride, boron oxide, boron silicide, an organic boron compound, and a compound comprising boron and phosphorus.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 16, wherein the material comprising a boron element has an average particle diameter of 200 μm or less.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 15, wherein a material comprising a phosphorus element is at least one material selected from the group consisting of simple phosphorus, phosphorus oxide, phosphorus carbide, phosphorus chloride, phosphorus fluoride, phosphorus bromide, phosphorus hydroxide, phosphorus nitride, phosphorus silicide, an organic phosphorous compound, and a compound comprising phosphorus and boron.

Claim 19-23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 1, wherein the content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is

15-30 mass% and the content of the phosphorus element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is 2-10 mass%.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A shaped expanded graphite article, comprising:
an oxidation resistant coating layer provided to at least an outer layer portion of the shaped expanded graphite article, wherein

the oxidation-resistant coating layer is (i) disposed on the surface of the shaped expanded graphite and at least partially incorporated into the shaped expanded graphite article, (ii) incorporated only to a certain depth of the shaped expanded graphite article, or (iii) incorporated to a core of the shaped expanded graphite article, wherein

the oxidation-resistant coating layer comprises a boron element and a phosphorus element;

a content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is $[[1]]$ 15 mass% or more;

a content of the phosphorus element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is $[[0.1]]$ 2 mass% or more;

the content of the boron element is higher than that of the phosphorus element; and

the oxidation-resistant coating layer has a thickness of 0.5 μm or more.

Claim 26 (New): A shaped expanded graphite article comprising an oxidation-resistant coating layer,

wherein the oxidation-resistant coating layer has a thickness of 0.5 μm or more, and comprises a boron element and a phosphorus element, the content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer being 15 mass% or more and the content of the phosphorus element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer being 2 mass% or more,

the content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is greater than that of the content of the phosphorous element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer, and said oxidation-resistant coating layer is on a surface of said shaped-expanded graphite article.